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Dear members of the education committee,

I write in support of the elimination of the edTPA as outlined in Section 4 of HB06884. As part of my role as an associate professor of education at the Neag School at UConn, I work with teacher candidates who are student teaching and preparing the edTPA. I have been doing this work for over a decade, and I, therefore, have been doing this work prior to the implementation of the edTPA. I have seen a deterioration in the development of young teachers while not delivering the rigor of teacher quality that edTPA promises. Some of the many reasons I believe Connecticut should eliminate the edTPA include the following:

The edTPA inhibits teacher candidate growth. As an educator of novice teachers, my main concern is on their growth and education. The edTPA takes valuable time from these young teachers learning how to teach. In the time since the implementation of edTPA I have seen the students become less reflective in their practice. Instead, they are figuring out how to simply pass this requirement rather than follow where their learning best leads them.

The money candidates spend on the edTPA is best kept in the state. The edTPA is an expensive burden for these young adults who have chosen to serve our communities by becoming teachers. For many teacher candidates the expensive fee for the edTPA is prohibitive. Most important to Connecticut's economy, this is money that could be spent in state rather than sent to Pearson, who's employees and tax paying resides in other states. This is money best used to support our businesses and communities.

Elimination of requirement would provide more flexibility and choice. While Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) requires a statistically valid and reliable preservice assessment, edTPA is not the only way to achieve this requirement. Schools of education around the country have elected to choose assessments that better reflect their outcomes. The passage of this bill would provide more choice; it

would give schools of education the flexibility to make the decision on how to best measure their outcomes.

It is my hope that Connecticut moves to eliminate the edTPA in the name of student growth, shoring up the state's economy, and enabling individual choice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Alamo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.